

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /020 W

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UNCLAS JIDDA 1428

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW (FEBRUARY 18-24)

SUMMARY: MAJOR STRAIGHT NEWS SUBJECTS COVERED BY SAUDI PRESS LAST WEEK (FEBRUARY 18-24) WERE SADAT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, ARAB LEAGUE'S MEDIATION OVER THE SPANISH SAHARA, ARAB DEMONSTRATIONS IN JERUSALEM AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC ECONOMY, HELD HERE BY KING ABDUL AZIZ UNIVERSITY. U.S. RELATED EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES INVOLVED SADAT'S VISIT, INTRA-ARAB AND ARAB/US/ISRAELI ISSUES AND NIXON'S VISIT TO CHINA. (END SUMMARY)

1. SADAT VISIT:

ADNAN SALAH IN 2/24 JAIIRA DAILY: "IT IS SILLY TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICA AS A STATE IS HOSTILE TO THE ARABS, AS SOME ARABS CLAIM, BECAUSE RELATIONS AMONG STATES ARE GOVERNED BY INTERESTS RATHER THAN BY LOVE AND UNCLASSIFIED

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AFFECTION. PRESIDENT SADAT...SAYS THAT HIS ATTITUDE

TOWARDS THE AMERICANS IS BASED ON EGYPTIAN AND ARAB INTERESTS. AS LONG AS THAT INTEREST LIES IN ACHIEVING REAPPROCHEMEENT, THEN SADAT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICA MUST CONTINUE."

MUHAMMAD ALI HAFIZ QF 2/22 AL-MADINA: "SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD NOT ONLY DO ITS DUTY TOWARD EGYPT, BUT ALSO SHOULD LEAD A CAMPAIGN TO URGE THE ARAB OIL-RICH NATIONS TO HELP HER. THIS CALL IS NOT MADE OUT OF EMOTION, BUT STEMS FROM OUR DEEP FEELING AND APPRECIATION OF EGYPT'S ROLE WHICH WOULD NOT BE VIABLE WITHOUT A "STRONG AND RICH"EGYPT."

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS OF 2/21 SAID THAT "THIS VISIT MUST HAVE BEEN PROMOTED IN PART BY THE FACT THAT AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE MIGHT BE CONVENED NEXT APRIL. ANOTHER (REASON MAY BE) THE APPARENT DIMINISHING MOMENTUM IN THE DRIVE TOWARDS A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND THE DANGERS POSED BY THE POSSIBLE REEMERGENCE OF THE ABHORRED STATE OF NO WAR NO PEACE. THE U.S. HAS PLEDUGED ITSELF TO A POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING THE SITUATION IN THE M.E. TO TURN INTO A STALEMATE BUT ALL THE SAME THE TREND TOWARDS A DEADLOCK IS MUCH TOO CLEAR TO BE IGNORED."

ON 2/22 SAME PAPER SAID: "LONG AGO SHREWD ARAB OBSERVERS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ARAB NATION WILL BE PROPERLY STEERED AND DEFENDED ONLY AS LONG AS RELATIONS BETWEEN RIYADH AND CAIRO REMAIN INTIMATE. OF COURSE THOSE OBSERVERS HAD IN MIND EGYPT'S MANPOWER AND STRONG ARMY AND SAUDI ARABIA'S SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIC POSITION. (KING KHALID AND PRESIDENT SADAT) WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A NEW REAPPRAISAL OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND GIVEN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THOSE IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO, IMPATIENT WITH THE SLOW MOVES TOWARDS PEACE IN THE M.E., ARE INCREASINGLY MAKING THE GLOOMY REMARK THAT THE AREA, IN ITS QUEST OF PEACE, FINDS THAT IT IS ONLY CHASING A MIRAGE."

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3. INTRA-ARAB/US/ISRAELI ISSUES:

AHMAD M. MAHMUUD IN 2/22 AL-MADINA DAILY: "THE ARABS' RIFT WOULD ONLY PLEASE THE AMERICANS AND THE ISRAELIS. AMERICAN POLICIES ARE AGAINST ANY ISLAMIC OR ARAB UNITY BECAUSE THE U.S. INTERESTS FLOURISH AMIDST ARABS DIFFERENCES. IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT ARAB SITUATION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY EITHER

HAVING THE CONFRONTATION STATES HELP EACH OTHER TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS POLITICALLY, OR BY HAVING SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS WAGE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL TO REGAIN THEIR LANDS".

IYAD MADINI IN 2/22 UKAZ REVIEWED IMPORTANCE OF JEWISH LOBBY IN THE U.S. AND SUGGESTED A SIMILAR ARAB EFFORT BY ASKING WHETHER "THE RECENTLY-HELD ARAB MINISTERS OF INFORMATION CONFERENCE THOUGHT ABOUT ORGANIZING AN ACTIVE ARAB LOBBY IN THE U.S. CONSISTING OF ARAB-AMERICANS."

4. NIXON'S VISIT TO CHINA:

IN UKAZ DAILY 2/24 UNNAMED WRITER EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT OVER "SPECTACULAR" CHINESE RECEPTION OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, AND SAID THAT THIS VISIT HAS ONCE AGAIN PLACED NIXON IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE NEWS. "THIS IS A NICE CINPLIMENT TO THE MAN WHO PUT AN END TO 20 YEARS OF U.S.-CHINESE EMITY."

JONES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760215/aaaaamuz.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <27 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW (FEBRUARY 18-24) SUMMARY: MAJOR STRAIGHT NEWS SUBJECTS COVERED BY SAUDI
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, SA
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006